

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3025

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 10235

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER, AUGUST 1, 1974

1. I MET THIS AFTERNOON WITH THE PRIME MINISTER TO CONVEY THE SECRETARY'S HOPE THAT HE MIGHT VISIT INDIA IN THE SECOND HALF OF OCTOBER AT A TIME CONVENIENT TO HER. SHE WAS EXPECTING HIM SEPTEMBER 7. I EXPLAINED ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS. SHE WILL SET A DATE TO BE JOINTLY ANNOUNCED.

2. I REPORTED THE PASSAGE OF THE IDA APPROPRIATION, AND LEFT WITH HER THE LANGUAGE OF THE LONG AMENDMENT. I DESCRIBED MY CONVERSATION WITH CONGRESSMAN LONG IN WHICH I SAID THAT INASMUCH AS THE UNITED STATES HAD ONLY A MINORITY VOTE ON THE IDA BOARD AND INASMUCH AS THE BOARD DOESN'T VOTE ANYWAY, HIS AMENDMENT WOULD HAVE NO PRACTICAL EFFECT. HE HAD REPLIED THAT OBVIOUSLY IT WOULD NOT AS NO CONGRESSIONAL ACTION EVER DID. P.N. DHAR ASKED DID THAT MEAN WE DID NOT INTEND TO CANVASS OTHERS TO VOTE AGAINST LOANS TO INDIA? I SAID THAT WE DID NOT, AND THAT THE MANAGERS OF THE LEGISLATION IN THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE UNDERSTOOD THIS WHEN THE ADMINISTRATION ACCEDED TO THEIR JUDGMENT THAT TO STRIKE THE LONG AMENDMENT IN CONFERENCE WAS TO RISK LOSING THE ENTIRE BILL WHEN IT RETURNED TO THE HOUSE FLOOR. MR. MCNAMARA ALSO UNDERSTOOD THIS TO BE THE ADMINISTRATION'S INTENTION AND DESIRE AND IN CONSEQUENCE HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE THAT ANY LOAN

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TO INDIA WOULD BE HELD UP. (I LATER STATED THAT AS WITH ANY

GOVERNMENT POLICY, THIS ONE COULD CHANGE, BUT THEN IT IS ALWAYS IN THE POWER OF ANY MEMBER OF THE BANK BOARD TO CANVASSIN OPPOSITION TO A LOAN.) MY IMPRESSION -- AND WE DO TRY TO KEEP IMPRESSIONS PER SE TO A MINIMUM IN OUR REPORTING -- MY IMPRESSION WAS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER AND DHAR WERE CONSIDERABLY RELIEVED TO HEAR THIS. THEY HAD PROBABLY THOUGHT THE MONEY WAS LOST, BUT WORSE, THEY HAD THOUGHT THIS EVENT WOULD BE TRANSFORMED BY THE OPPOSITION INTO ANOTHER AMERICAN ATROCITY AND THUS SPOIL THE SECRETARY'S VISIT.

3. IN THIS SETTING I CHOSE NOT TO RAISE THE PROLIFERATION ISSUE AND THE CONSEQUENCES FOR INDIA WERE PAKISTAN TO GO NUCLEAR. I TURNED INSTEAD TO GERM WARFARE, EVER A MATTER OF INTEREST TO LADIES. I REVIEWED THE WEEK'S EVENTS HERE AND IN THE UNITED STATES REGARDING THE CHARGES THAT THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND THE BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY WERE IN THE PAY OF THE PENTAGON. I STATE THAT WE QUITE UNDERSTOOD THAT SUCH CHRGES WERE IN FACT DIRECTED AGAINST HER AND HER MINISTERS, AND NOT AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. I IDENTIFIED MYSELF AS THE HIGH OFFICIAL WHO SAID AS MUCH IN THE NEW YORK TIMES. I SAID MY ONE, PERSONAL, CONCERN WAS THAT THESE CHARGES NOT BE USED AS A PRETEXT TO EXPEL THE AMERICAN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL TEAM IN BIHAR WHICH HAS JUST TURNED THE CORNER ON THE SMALLPOX EPIDEMIC THERE. THE DOCTORS HAD REPORTED TO ME THAT BY DECEMBER INDIA, AND WITH INDIA THE WORLD, COULD BE FREE FOR ALL TIME OF THIS SORROW. I SHOWED CHARTS, PICTURES OF BABIES, TABLES. I SAID THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION NEEDED A VICTORY, THAT SO DID MANKIND. ELIMINATING SMALLPOX WOULD BE SUCH. INASMUCH AS HER HEALTH MINISTER DID NOT SEEM TO KNOW IT IS AMERICANS WHO ARE DOING THE JOB, I WANTED HER TO KNOW. SHE OBSERVED THAT HER HEALTH MINISTER DID NOT SEEM TO KNOW MUCH ABOUT ANYTHING.

4. AFTERWARDS P.N. DHAR TOOK ME TO THE CABINET ROOM FOR COFFEE. HE STATED THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA WAS TURNING ON THE PRIME MINISTER. AS IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THE SINO-RUSSIAN BREAK, WHEN THE RUSSIANS BEGAN DENOUNCING ALBANIA, IT WAS HE WHO WAS, FOR THE MOMENT THEIR TARGET. HE CITED ARTICLES IN "NEW AGE" CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE CPI. "I AM ALBANIA," HE SAID. HE IS MOST ANXIOUS FOR THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BE SUCCESSFUL AND SUBSTANTIAL. THE PRIME MINISTER HAD GUESSED THIS WAS WHAT I WANTED TO SEE HER

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ABOUT. HE AND I WILL MEET SATURDAY TO DISCUSS THE MATTER AT LENGTH.

5. COMMENT: I FEAR THEY COMMENCE TO EXPECT A MIRACLE FROM THE VISIT, NOT ONLY BECAUSE THE SECRETARY HAS PERFORMED SUCH ELSEWHERE, BUT BECAUSE THEY NEED ONE. I CAN'T BELIEVE THE RUSSIANS ARE DROPPING HER, BUT I CAN JUST POSSIBLY CONCEIVE THAT SHE SEES THAT SO LONG AS INDIA HAS NO REAL RELATION WITH THE UNITED STATES,

THE RUSSIANS GET OFF MUCH TOO CHEAPLY. THIS IS THE REALITY OF
IT, AND REALITY, FITFUL AS THE MONSOON, DOES EVER SO OCCASION-
ALLY DESCEND UPON THIS MYSTIC LAND.
MOYNIHAN

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